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PATENT

Serial No. 09/787,096

Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on August 14, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 8-11, 17 and 23 for certain informalities. In response, claims 8-11, 17 and 23 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner, as well as other informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 8-11, 17 and 23 is respectfully requested. Claims 8-11, 17 and 23 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability, and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 17-19 and 21-23 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15, 17-19 and 21-23 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly incomplete. Without agreeing

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with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution and expediting allowance, claim 20 has been amended to remove the informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 20 has been overcome and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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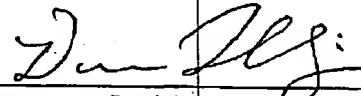
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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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